

Advisory Action dated October 10, 2002. Entry and consideration of this Response are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-11 will be all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 will have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. The attachment to this Amendment shows the amendments made to claims 1 and 8 by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

RESPONSE TO §102 REJECTIONS:

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Staiger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,065,287, hereafter Staiger) or Strobel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,204,820, hereafter Strobel). Additionally, claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Linda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,924,359, hereafter Linda) or Bunse et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,945,454, hereafter Bunse). For the following reasons, the above rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicants maintain that Staiger, Strobel, Linda and Bunse, each individually or in combination, fail to disclose or teach all the features recited in claims 1 and 8. Specifically, Staiger, Strobel, Linda and Bunse fail to disclose a desired light pattern with zones of different light intensities, as recited in amended claims 1 and 8.

Strobel and Staiger

Both Strobel and Staiger are directed to a method for producing a reflective surface for distributing light from a light source according to a desired light pattern for application with a vehicle headlight. The reflector is asymmetric in order that the light reflected by the reflector

distributes the available light on a surface to be illuminated. The light is distributed according to the brightness desired at the various spots so that an undesired brightness increase or decrease is avoided. (see Staiger, col. 4, lines 41-57, and Strobel, col. 4, lines 56-68). To this end, Staiger and Strobel clearly avoid the creation of zones of different light intensities.

Lindae

Lindae is directed to a reflector for a low beam, in which two or more zones of different light intensity cannot be found. With the asymmetric reflector disclosed in Lindae, the original beam of light produced by the various reflector surfaces is substantially equivalent to the low beam allowed by the law. Thus, Lindae also fails to disclose a reflector that is adapted to create in a beam two zones of different light intensities.

Bunse

Bunse discloses a reflector for a dimmed beam, in which a desired light distribution is achieved without a correcting lens. More specifically, in Bunse, a desirable light distribution is achieved without a correcting lens in horizontal and vertical areas perpendicular to a middle axis of the headlight. (see Abstract). However, Bunse also fails to disclose two or more zones of different light intensities.

Therefore, claims 1 and 8 are believed to be distinguishable over the cited prior art at least for the reasons noted above. Likewise, claims 2-7 and 9-11 are also believed to be distinguishable over the cited prior art based on their dependency on claims 1 and 8, respectively.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record, and are now in condition for allowance.

AUTHORIZATIONS

The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this filing to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4706. Likewise, any overpayment is credited to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4706.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:


Mark D. Pratt
Reg. No.:45,794
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

Morgan & Finnegan
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154



PATENT
Attorney's Docket No. 1948-4706

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : BLUSSEAU et al Group Art Unit: 2875
Serial No : 09/557,835 Examiner: T. Sember
Filed : April 26, 2000
For : A DUAL FUNCTION HEADLIGHT FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE
WITH A SINGLE LIGHT SOURCE AND FIXED OPTICS

ATTACHMENT

Commissioner Of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Amendments made to claims 1 and 8 herein are indicated in this attachment by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A headlight for a motor vehicle, for travel along a road defining an axis of the road which is the general direction of travel of the vehicle, the headlight comprising a light source and optical reflector adjacent to the light source for producing a beam which is generally spread widthwise with respect to the axis of the road, wherein the said optical reflector is adapted to create in said beam at least two [distinct] zones of different maximum light intensities [intensity], wherein said optical reflector has a central axis passing through the light source in the beam direction, and is asymmetrical along a plane on the central axis so as to create different angular offset between the two zones.

8. (Twice Amended) A pair of headlights for a motor vehicle for travel along a road defining an axis of the road such that travel of the vehicle is substantially along the axis of the road, the said pair of headlights comprising a left hand light and a right hand light, wherein a first one of the said lights is adapted to produce a first beam generally spread widthwise with respect to the axis of the road and having a first zone of maximum light intensity offset from the axis of the road in a first lateral direction and a second zone of maximum light intensity situated close to the axis of the road, and the other said light is adapted to produce a second beam generally spread widthwise and having a first zone of maximum light intensity offset from the axis of the road in a second lateral direction opposite to the said first lateral direction and a second zone of maximum light intensity situated close to the axis of the road, wherein each said light includes an optical reflector that has a central axis passing through the light source in the beam direction, and is asymmetrical along a plane on the central axis so as to create different angular offset and light intensities between the first and second zones.